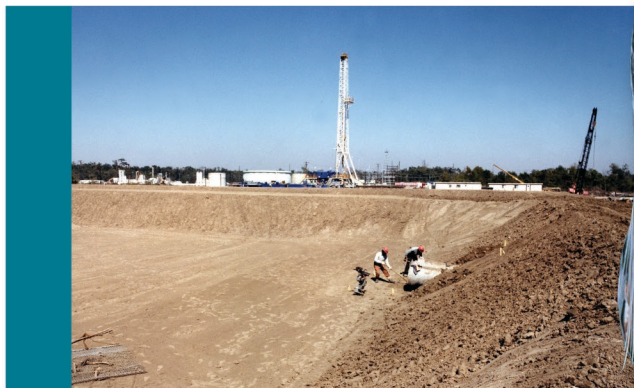


# Benefits and Interactions

Migratory birds and the ecosystems in which they live often have special meanings in people's lives. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is seeking suggestions to help describe the benefits people receive from healthy, sustainable ecosystems and the migratory birds that live in them. Benefits may be tangible or intangible.

- Tangible benefits include economic value from their function as pollinators, in control of insect pests, when their habitat protects clean water, and from bird-related activities such as bird watching.
- Intangible benefits include aesthetics, cultural values, practices, and traditional lifeways, or a sense of well-being dependent upon the natural systems associated with migratory birds.



The USFWS is also looking for suggestions of measures and alternative(s) that protect, preserve, and enhance the cultural and social benefits to society from natural ecosystems and for ways to consider impacts to the migratory birds within those ecosystems.

Photo by: Gary Kramer,  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Photo by: Steve Hillebrand, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## *Please share your comments on:*

- Ways that migratory birds and other environmental issues may be affected by the proposed actions being considered in the programmatic environmental impact statement
- Ways to describe and evaluate the interactions between affected resources, such as cultural resources
- Bird species having religious or cultural significance for tribes, bird species having religious or cultural significance for the general public, and impacts to cultural values from the actions being considered.

We would also like to know your thoughts on how migratory birds and their habitats:

- Support traditional life and heritage activities
- Are elements in landscape quality
- Are associated with linguistic landmarks, sacred geography, or place-based ceremonies
- Are attributes of wilderness, solitude, quiet or natural sounds, and dark for meditation or ceremony
- Are important to traditional education associated with place-based stories, names, history, practices, skills, and languages
- Are important to local economies, including recreational activities associated with migratory birds

Photo by: Justine Belson,  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

